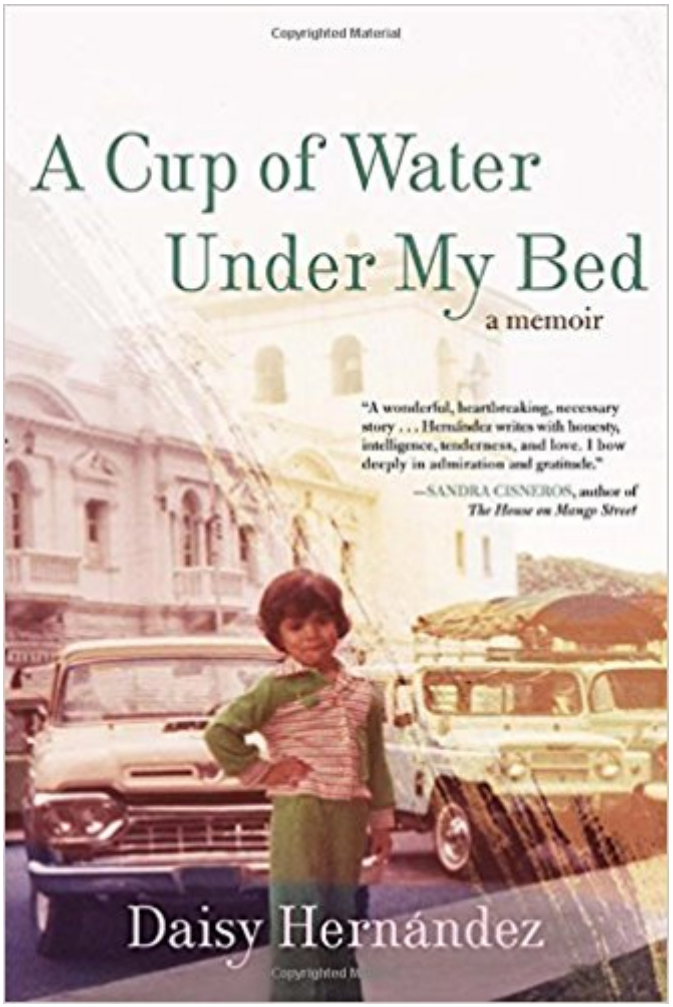
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A Cup Of Water Under My Bed: A Memoir



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Synopsis

A coming-of-age memoir by a Colombian-Cuban woman about shaping lessons from home into a new, queer life Ã Â In this lyrical, coming-of-age memoir, Daisy HernÃƒÂ¡ndez chronicles what the women in her Cuban-Colombian family taught her about love, money, and race. Her mother warns her about envidia and men who seduce you with pastries, while one tÃƒÂ- a bemoans that her niece is turning out to be Ã¢â ¬Å“una indiaÃ¢â ¬Â• instead of an American. Another auntie instructs that when two people are close, they are bound to become like uÃƒÂ a y mugre, fingernails and dirt, and that no, DaisyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s father is not godless. HeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s simply praying to a candy dish that can be traced back to Africa.Ã Â These lessonsÃ¢â ¬â •rooted in womenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s experiences of migration, colonization, y cariÃƒÂ oÃ¢â ¬â •define in evocative detail what it means to grow up female in an immigrant home. In one story, Daisy sets out to defy the dictates of race and class that preoccupy her mother and tÃƒÂ- as, but dating women and transmen, and coming to identify as bisexual, leads her to unexpected questions. In another piece, NAFTA shuts local factories in her hometown on the outskirts of New York City, and she begins translating unemployment forms for her parents, moving between English and Spanish, as well as private and collective fears. In prose that is both memoir and commentary, Daisy reflects on reporting for the New York Times as the paper is rocked by the biggest plagiarism scandal in its history and plunged into debates about the role of race in the newsroom. A heartfelt exploration of family, identity, and language, A Cup of Water Under My BedÃ Â is ultimately a daughterÃ¢â ¬â„¢s story of finding herself and her community, and of creating a new, queer life.

Book Information

Paperback: 200 pages

Publisher: Beacon Press; Reprint edition (September 8, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0807062928

ISBN-13: 978-0807062920

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.5 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 51 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #29,022 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 inÃ Â Books > Gay & Lesbian > Nonfiction > Bisexuality #9 inÃ Â Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Hispanic & Latino #30 inÃ Â Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Specific Groups > LGBT

Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“Warm and thoughtful, HernÃƒÂ¡ndez writes with cleareyed compassion about living, and redefining success, at the intersection of social, ethnic and racial difference. Personal storytelling at its most authentic and heartfelt.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Kirkus ReviewsÃ¢â ¬Å“Gorgeously written from start to finish.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Boston GlobeÃ¢â ¬Å“Journalist, feminist, and first-time memoirist HernÃƒÂ¡ndez presents a coming-of-age story that dives into the complexities of language, sexuality, and class. Ã¢â ¬Â¦Ã Â An accessible, honest look at the often heart-wrenching effects of intergenerational tension on family ties.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •BooklistÃ¢â ¬Å“This book is a compelling glimpse into the life of a young Latina struggling to hold onto her background and make her way in a world she often finds difficult to embrace. Hernandez's use of language is often poetic, especially when intermingling Spanish and English, with the cultural tones of each.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Windy City TimesÃ¢â ¬Å“By the end of this beautiful book, Daisy HernÃƒÂ¡ndez, a queer American Latina, has threaded Spanish and English together to create an inimitable new language in a brave and brilliant negotiation of a multilingual world.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Los Angeles Review of BooksÃ¢â ¬Å“With wit and respectful grace, HernÃƒÂ¡ndez shares stories of love for family, of strong (despite herself) roots, and of assimilation and claiming who you are without losing who you were.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Dallas VoiceÃ¢â ¬Å“During a time in history when so much is said about women of color, working-class folks, immigrants, Latinas, poor people, and los depreciados but seldom from them, HernÃƒÂ¡ndez writes with honesty, intelligence, tenderness, and love. I bow deeply in admiration and gratitude.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Sandra Cisneros, author of The House on Mango Street Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“A striking and illuminating memoir of stark beauty that challenges our notions of identity and feminine power; absolutely riveting and unforgettable.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Patricia Engel, author of ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Not Love, ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Just ParisÃ Â Ã¢â ¬Å“HernÃƒÂ¡ndez writes with grace and clarity about the singular joys and unique pains of growing up in two worlds. Ã¢â ¬Â¦Ã Â A marriage of power and poetry.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Laila Lalami, author of Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits Ã¢â ¬Å“HernÃƒÂ¡ndez is a stone-cold truth teller, and her talent is eclipsed only by her fearlessness. If this debut is a sign of whatÃ¢â ¬â„¢s to come, plan to have your heart and head broken wide open. Again and again.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •JohnÃ Â Murillo, author ofÃ Â Up Jump the Boogie

Daisy HernÃƒÂ¡ndez is the coeditorÃ Â of Colonize This! Young Women of Color on TodayÃ¢â ¬â„¢s FeminismÃ Â and the former editor of ColorLines magazine. She speaks at

colleges and conferences about feminism, race, and media representations, and her writing has appeared in the New York Times, Ms. magazine, CultureStrike, In These Times, Bellingham Review, Fourth Genre, and Hunger Mountain, and on NPRÃ¢â ¬â„¢sÃ Â All Things Considered.

This is an incredibly insightful and interesting memoir by a young Latina writer. Hernandez, the child of a Columbian mother and Cuban father, both of whom work in factories in New Jersey, describes her upbringing and coming-of-age. Her understanding of her family deepens and changes as she grows into adulthood. A lot of difficult memories and topics (religion, sexuality, alcoholism to name a few) are discussed head-on, and with emotional honesty. A Cup of Water Under My Bed opened a window into a world of experiences very different from my own, which made for fascinating reading.What I found most interesting was how well Hernandez describes the emotions of growing up and growing apart from her family, even as they influenced her profoundly and helped shape her worldview. Hernandez's narrative is not entirely linear, so those who expect that in a memoir may find it a little confusing. But I found the more spiral style interesting and just a different way to tell a story. The chapter about her mother's storytelling was a bit hard for me to follow, as the vignettes were short and kind of disconnected from each other. Still, this gave her mother a distinctly different voice from Hernandez herself, and made for an interesting contrast.I highly recommend this book to any reader who loves memoir and is looking for an interesting story and unique voice.

A difficult book for me to rate. Many times the writing was wonderful. I understood the whole focus of the book except the author's need to discuss her sexuality. To other readers this may have been pertinent but to me I felt it subtracted from the story. The was much richness in this book but not all of the book entertained or enlightened. It is an interesting insight into this lati na woman' s life and thoughts.

I love books that take an intersectional approach to identity. Not only does this memoir do just that, it also has some of the most beautiful prose I've read in a long time. This is by far my favorite book I've read this year. I've read it a few times and have bought it as a gift for several of my friends.

The first chapter of A Cup of Water is excellent. Ms. Hernandez' words infected my thoughts for days afterwards. The rest of the book did not have the impact of the first chapter for me but the writing is first-rate.

Absolutely loved!! Hernandez paints a fascinating portrait of the complex women around her, who raised her, and herself. I read it cover to cover in 2 days, and will probably reread again soon!

Read it for Bi Book Club donated it to the Quatrefoil Library in Minneapolis

I felt I was reading what could had been my life story as seen through the eyes of someone else. Very powerful book that describes costumes we hispanics use as support and guides during our journey in this United States.

Daisy Hernandez takes you through her insightful journey of growing up in an immigrant household, as well as navigating life as a bi woman of color. I loved it!

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